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WEST VIRGINIA

LIBRARIES

Vol. 52 No. 1

February 1999

Two Cheryls Mean Twice the Fun!

by Karen Kramer
Cabell County Public Library

The Children's Roundtable was privileged to have two notable West Virginia children's authors present at the WVLA's annual conference at the Greenbrier.

Cheryl Ware and Cheryl Harshman (no relation to one another)

spoke to the members about their books, background, and the experiences that influenced them.

Cheryl Ware, from Elkins, has written two books under three titles. The first, *Sea Monkey Summer*, published in 1996, about the unconventional Venola Mae Cutright, had to be withdrawn from the market because of a trademark problem (we all know how sensitive those Sea Monkey people can be!). It was reissued in 1997 as *Flea Circus Summer*. The further adventures of Venola Mae were chronicled in the 1998 sequel *Catty-Cornered*, one of Amazon.com's list of top 20 books for children. Both are written for intermediate-



Cheryl Ware

level readers.

Cheryl W. suggests that aspiring writers attend writing conferences to get started. She mentioned Cynthia Rylant as a great influence for her. Cynthia once asked the question, "What are you willing to give up to become a writer?" which motivated Cheryl to leave a full-time teaching position at Davis & Elkins College to make her living as a writer. Once she realized it wasn't paying all the bills, she went back to teaching part-time at Alderson-Broaddus College and began concentrating on having some of her short stories published. After a book of short stories about Venola Mae from childhood to becoming a grandmother was rejected for being too comprehensive for children, Cheryl concentrated on just one year in the life, based upon a suggestion by a publisher.

Like Venola Mae, Cheryl grew up in Belington in Barbour County, and, during Cheryl's adolescence, she also spent the nights with her widowed grandmother for five years. Unlike the trailer filled with 13 cats in *Catty-Cornered*, Cheryl's grandmother's house had 27 cats! By recalling smells, sounds, sights, and other sensations from her childhood, Cheryl is able to draw upon her past experiences to make her characters come alive. She plans to write more children's stories, but her school visits and writing workshops keep her busy throughout most of the year

see Cheryl Ware on page 11

Cheryl Harshman, who writes under the pen name "Cheryl Ryan," presented the workshop "Take a Walk With a Writer." The walk refers in part to the country road upon which Sally Arnold (the title character from Cheryl's picture book) travels in the story and to the road of life we all wander.

Cheryl took us through her life from her earliest experiences at the local public library to the forthcoming book she and husband, children's author Marc Harshman, are creating. Cheryl still recalls the basement of



Cheryl Harshman

the public library she visited every Saturday, and the most glamorous person she had ever seen, the children's librarian. While Cheryl was working toward her Master's degree from the University of Pittsburgh, one of her instructors, Mary Hodges, told her that her writing was "quite good," and that Cheryl should think about writing a book.

It was the first time that anyone had told her she was talented enough to write her own book, and it was enough to inspire her to try. Six years and many rejection letters later, *Sally Arnold* came to be, influenced in part by the story hours and children's books Cheryl was immersed in while working at the library in Moundsville. Cheryl shared some insights from her book with us. A Mr. Fox really existed, and when he died, a copy of *Sally Arnold* was on a table by his casket. The country store actually had a huge cash register that was so important from Cheryl's childhood memories that she begged the illustrator, Bill Farnsworth (whom she has never actually met in person), to include it. The old woman represents the strong West Virginia women Cheryl admires, and her clothing was meant to compliment her rather than portray her as an eccentric caricature. A scene showing traditional country music and dance was meant to remind children of the need to preserve our Appalachian heritage.

see Cheryl Harshman on page 11

President's Column

Betty Gunnoe



Betty Gunnoe

It has been a busy couple of months since WVLA at the Greenbrier. First, I would like to thank Judy Duncan for the great job she did with the program. Based on the evaluations we received, the program content was very good. I hope I can do as well this year. Also, according to the evaluations, everyone wants to return to the Greenbrier sometime in the future. We'll see what we can do with that one. Many thanks to all who helped make the conference a success especially Ann Farr and her committee who took care of registrations and Rod Lee and his committee who furnished the "goodie bags." Also a special thanks to Beulah Handy and Pam Ford for looking after the exhibitors. Pam Coyle and I are already working on this year's conference which will be October 4-6 at the Clarion Hotel and Conference Center in Shepherdstown.

We held our annual Library Appreciation Day in Charleston on February 2nd. We tried something new this year and we are awaiting evaluations from those who participated to see how successful they think it was. Participants had an informational meeting at the Cultural

Center in the morning and got to meet our new Library Advocate, Bob Ashley, who gave them a briefing on what to do during the course of the day. Thanks to Sue Eichelberger and David Shouldis who put together the informational packets which were distributed to the legislators. Following the day of appointments, we had a reception in the Great Hall of the Cultural Center for the participants and the legislators. We were honored to have First Lady Hovah Underwood, representing the Governor, make a few remarks. We also were

"When you have help like this, they make it look easy!"

honored to have Senator Earl Ray Tomblin, President of the Senate and Delegate Bob Kiss, Speaker of the House of Delegates, give some brief remarks. David Price, Director of the West Virginia Library Commission, was also there to give a greeting. Tours of the newly renovated Library Commission offices were given during the day. Many thanks to those who did so much of the work connected with this day: Beth Nicholson, Connie Cutright, Steve Cristo, Pam Coyle, and

Linda Hedding. When you have help like this, they make it look easy! The committee will meet during Spring Fling to evaluate the day and decide whether to continue with this format or go back to the annual dinner. I will let you know what is decided.

The roster of the WVLA Executive Board is now posted on the Web site, as is the calendar of the Board. I hope to see all of you in Flatwoods at the Spring Fling March 11-12.

Editorial: Everything changes and remains the same.

In the last issue of *WV Libraries* Karen and Margie said it had been four years since they looked at each other and said, "I'll do it if you do it." Thus began their adventure in editing *West Virginia Libraries*. For us the adventure has just begun, but it did happen in much the same way. We looked at each other and said, "I'll do it if you do it." If we can do half the job Karen and Margie have done, we'll be satisfied.

Following the saying, "Change is inevitable, except from a vending machine," we have discussed a few changes to match our editing style. We were, however, disappointed that one of the first changes we would be forced (and we do mean forced) to handle was the loss of the graphics and layout guru, Shirley Smith. Shirley was ready to "retire" along with Karen and Margie, and with her busy life we certainly understand. Jimmy White, graphics artist extraordinaire, whose day job is with the West Virginia Library Commission, has rescued us. We think you'll like his additions.

As for the rest of you, *please* keep sending in those stories and suggestions. We plan to approach this adventure in much the same way we both approach life...with humor, help from our friends and co-workers, and hip boots... just in case it gets too deep for us!

Denise Ash, Sue Eichelberger

This Film is Prodigious!

Steve Christo

In Huntington, we were treated to a "sneak preview" of *October Sky* (an anagram of *Rocket Boys*) last weekend. It is a "must see" for all West Virginians.

When Mr. Hickam spoke here at the Cabell County Public Library a few months ago, he stressed how he was working with the producers and directors to make sure that the film would not portray West Virginians as the stereotypes we see so often in other films. He was successful.

The characterizations of his parents, his brother, his teacher and his fellow *Rocket Boys* were true to the book. I'm sorry the book sequences of Sonny buying the suit for the National Science Fair and the encounter with the candidate JFK did not make it the film. I think they would have been great additions.

It's not going to be in the AFI "Top 100 Films" list, but it's a "feel good" film that we can be proud to claim.

To paraphrase Quintin, "Sonny, this film is prodigious!"

ALA Councilor's Report

Joe Barnes

Over 13,000 persons attended the American Library Association's annual Midwinter Conference in Philadelphia this February. While not a record-setter, the size of the conference exceeded the numbers set for the previous Midwinter in New Orleans. Council met for an "informational" session on Sunday and conducted its business on each of three succeeding days. Some reforms adopted in recent years (among them the use of a written "Consent Agenda" for noncontroversial business and the use of time allocations for debate) helped Council move efficiently and address large issues. Here are some highlights.

The issues that get most of ALA Council's consideration are the ones that touch the library profession in critical areas and uncover sharply differing points of view within the ranks. "Outsourcing" and the deterioration of library education were two such issues in Philadelphia. Council members and those who observe us are often frustrated at what seems to be ALA's snail's pace at coming to grips with developments that threaten the survival of libraries and the profession. In Philadelphia there was encouraging progress.

The "outsourcing" issue received center attention several years ago after the State Library of Hawaii contracted with a private vendor to perform collection development. Without reviewing all the details, that incident ended with the dismissal of the library official responsible and with the abrogation of the state's contract with the vendor. Librarians and friends of libraries everywhere helped bring about the end of the experiment, which was seen as destructive of library services and a violation of the library's role in preserving First Amendment values. Few readers in Hawaii had any use for books on birdwatching in Florida, even if such books were in oversupply at the vendor's warehouse, and no champion of intellectual freedom wished to see the reading opportunities of library visitors shaped by a commercial enterprise. The dust had not settled on the Hawaiian episode when "outsourcing" reappeared in a more virulent form. A county public library district in California contracted out, or privatized, its entire service operation.

As a result, the ALA Task Force appointed to study outsourcing was given a broadened mandate, and in Philadelphia it presented a series of motions on "Outsourcing and Privatization in American Libraries." Among the motions adopted by Council was the statement, "ALA opposed the shifting of policy making and the management of library services or the responsibility for the performance of core library services in their entirety, from the public to the private sector." Outsourcing, the original source of contention, is a knottier issue. All libraries "outsource" to some degree, given the fact that publication itself is a largely commercial enterprise! Libraries of any size depend on subscription and book jobbers, and have long engaged in shared cataloging. Libraries also outsource when they use approval plans that endanger collection development decision making. Several motions adopted by Council directed ALA units to refine the Association's policies. The Intellectual Freedom Committee, for example, is to work on an interpretation of the Library Bill of Rights as it relates to outsourcing and privatization, and Divisions are directed to develop relevant policies and standards.

Readers will recall that the Council, at the 1998 Annual Conference, nearly passed a resolution directing that ALA Standards include the statement, "ALA accredits masters degree programs designed to prepare students for careers in librarianship." The resolution was referred to both the Committee on Education and the Committee on Accreditation. Meanwhile, ALA President Barbara Ford and the Executive Board created a Steering Committee on education issues, which developed an ambitious plan to convene a "Congress" on professional education. There is considerable overlap among the membership of the standing committees on education, the Executive Board, and the Steering Committee. All are preparing for the Congress, which is set for April 30-May 1 in Washington, D.C. At Midwinter the leadership gave Council a progress report on the preparation for the congress. It will focus not only on the troubling issue of "L" words—an issue that has served as both a symbolic and substantive focus for critics of recent developments, but will also examine what educators and practitioners regard as "core competencies" for librarianship and emerging issues in the profession. Council agreed to defer action again on its Resolution pending the outcome of the Congress.

In other matters, Council unanimously approved a Resolution on the statement, "Libraries: An American Value," a document which the West Virginia Library Association, along with most chapters, approved last year. After further debate, Council dealt with the troubling issue of the Boy Scouts' alleged violation of human rights with a Resolution "strongly urging" the BSA to "reconsider their policy of discrimination." I voted against even this watered-down condemnation, reflecting that whatever the merits of the case, the American Library Association has more than enough *library* oriented issues to occupy its time.

On the last morning, members were shocked and saddened by news of the death, the night before, of Marvin Scilken, one of the longest-serving members of Council. The

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WVLA AWARDS

Dora Ruth Parks Award

For long and outstanding service to libraries and librarianship in West Virginia.

The 27th Annual Dora Ruth Parks Award was presented to **Judith Prosser** during the 81st WVLA Annual Conference held at the Greenbrier.

Judy was hired by Dora Ruth Parks in 1969, as head of Technical Services at the Library Commission. Judy spent time in several states before settling in West Virginia. After graduating from Winthrop College in Rock Hill, South Carolina, she attended and earned a Master's degree in



Judith Prosser - Recipient of the 1998 Dora Ruth Parks Award

Library Science from the prestigious Columbia University School of Library Service in New York. She earned certificates in archival administration at the University of Denver and American University and attended seminars on computer based systems for libraries and information science at the University of Illinois, and the University of Southern California.

Judy served the Library Commission and the libraries of the state for a total of 29 years under three different Executive Secretaries, five governors, and several Library Commissioners. During this time, her initiative, her vision, her inventive ability with library networks and software have resulted in better library service in West Virginia. Her intelligence, her generosity, her eclectic interest in cooking, sewing, building, her continuous quest for new and better ways of doing things, her impatience with the status quo have

Literary Merit Award

For outstanding publication of West Virginia or for outstanding work as a West Virginia or Appalachian author.

Cheryl Ryan Harshman was born in rural Ohio, and she has lived her adult life in West Virginia with her husband Marc and now, her daughter Sarah. Cheryl is an active storyteller who has performed at countless libraries, festivals, and community gatherings over the last two decades. Stories, she says, are her way of helping join people together, whether it is people sitting together listening to a told tale or a solitary person reading a written tale from long ago and far away.

Cheryl's publications include articles for Goldenseal, the WV magazine of folklife and culture; several short stories for the Macmillan and Harcourt Brace reading tests; and now her first book, **SALLY ARNOLD**, published by Cobblehill, Dutton, 1996. A new title, **HARVEST GARDEN**, co-written with her husband, Marc Harshman, is forthcoming from Harcourt Brace.

Cheryl Ryan Harshman holds degrees from Bethany College and the University of Pittsburgh. In the past a librarian for the Yale University Drama School and the Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh, she was most recently a librarian at City-County Library in Moundsville,



Cheryl Ryan Harshman accepts the Literary Merit Award

Certificate of Merit

For outstanding service to libraries and librarianship in West Virginia.

The Certificate of Merit is present by the West Virginia Library Association to an individual, group or association who through their actions or deeds has made a significant contribution to the advancement of librarianship locally, regionally, or statewide. **Guy Laymond Nichols**, through his unselfish service, has been instrumental in ensuring the provision of library and information services to the citizens of Paden City.

Born in 1911, in Alma, West Virginia, Guy Nichols "was one of a handful of people who recognized the need to organize a library "for the small Ohio River-front community. He served as the first librarian of the Paden City Public Library for ten years (1947-1957) and was a member of the Library Board of Directors from 1970 until his retirement from the board in April 1998.

When he submitted his resignation from the Library Board due to declining health, Nichols stated, "Please know that I will treasure the memory of being part of the library and all the other good advancements that have made Paden City a great place." On September 14, 1998, Guy Nichols died at the age of 86.

Accepting the Certificate of Merit Award from Chuck Julian for the family of recipient Guy Laymond Nichols is Susan Reilly of the Miracle



Greenbrier Highlights



**West Virginia Library Association
Executive Board Meeting
December 9, 1998
The Greenbrier
12:30pm**

Members present: Betty Gunnoe, President Pam Coyle, First Vice-President Dottie Thomas, 2nd Vice-President Linda Lindsey, Secretary David Childers, Treasurer Joe Barnes, ALA Councilor Judy Duncan, Past President Ann Henrikson, College and University Division Matt Marsteller, Special Libraries Division Charles Hively, Roundtable Representative Judy Rule, SELA Representative David Price, Executive Secretary West Virginia Library Commission Suzette Lowe, Public Library Division Beth Nicholson, Legislative Day

1. Call to Order

President Betty Gunnoe called the meeting to order at 12:30pm.

2. Approval of the Minutes

Judy Duncan made the motion to approve the meeting of the previous meeting, seconded by David Childers motion carried.

3. President's Report

Judy Duncan thanked Betty for the great job she did on the Conference.

4. Treasurer's Report: Dave Childers

After a discussion about raising funds for the Legislative Consultant, it was decided to send out letters to the Friends Groups asking for donations.

David Childers made the motion to hire a Legislative Consultant at a salary not to exceed \$3,000.00, with preference given to Gene Tribett, seconded by Judy Duncan, motion carried.

David Childers suggested getting the financial report in *West Virginia Libraries*.

5. Membership:

No report

6. Division Reports

College and University – Ann Henrikson
The College and University section will again be working towards getting the Faculty Status bill through the Legislature.

Public Library – Suzette Lowe

Spring Fling will be held in Flatwoods, March 11-12th, sponsored by the Public section and Children's Roundtable

School Libraries

No report

Special Libraries – Matt Marsteller

They will continue to update their directory and work on programming for the Annual Conference

Trustees No report

Friends No report

• Roundtable Reports – Charles Hively

No report

8. ALA Councilor – Joe Barnes

Joe will be attending a special planning meeting at ALA Mid-winter.

9. Federal Relations Coordinator

Betty reported that Legislative Day in Washington would be May 3-4th

10. SELA Representative – Judy Rule

Judy reported on the Arkansas Conference and that a spring workshop will be coming up.

11. WV LIBRARIES – Sue Eichelberger and Denise Ash

Sue Eichelberger and Denise Ash are the new editors.

12. West Virginia Library Commission – David Price

WVLC is considering a birthday party at the Cultural Center to celebrate the year 2000.

13. Committee Reports

Auditing

A two-year audit will be done in the next few months.

Conference

Betty reported the evaluations were positive and to send any not turned in to her.

Constitution and Bylaws

No report

Continuing Education

No report

Elections

No report

Finance

No report

Handbook

No report

Intellectual Freedom

No report

Legislative

No report

Library Appreciation Day Dinner

Beth Nicholson reported Legislative Day would be

February 2, 1999, Connie Cutwright from Upshur Co.

Public Library will do reservations; Beth will coordinate appointments with Legislators.

Marketing

No report

Membership

No report

Nominating

No report

Public Relations

No report

Resolutions and Awards

No report

Site Selection – David Childers

1999 Annual Conference, Clarion Hotel, Shepherdstown; 2000, Charleston House Holiday Inn, will be first Thursday, Friday, and Saturday in November; 2001, Canaan Valley.

Web Page

No report

Old Business

None

New Business

Matt asked about contacting members with questions, Betty will send everyone new Executive Board members names and addresses, she also distributed new 1999 calendar for Board members.

•Correspondence

Betty asked Linda to send conference dates to ALA.

Betty read a thank you letter she received from Senator Jay Rockefeller thanking her for nominating him Legislator of the year.

17. Announcements

Next Board meeting will be in March, date to be announced, at Blackwater Falls.

18. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned.

The West Virginia Humanities Council recently awarded its most recent cycle of minigrants for local programming in the humanities. The following libraries received grants of up to \$1,500: Marion County Library, "Folk Story Telling Festival '99," program for children at three library branches with storytelling and oral history collection, \$1,000. South Charleston Public Library, "Belgian Heritage in West Virginia," to bring together a Belgian glass exhibit along with the Belgian language, folklore, dance, and history in West Virginia, \$1,500. The next minigrant deadline, for projects requesting \$1,500 or less, is April 1, 1999. Other deadlines are: June 1, August 1, October 1, December 1, and February 1. For more information on the Humanities Council's grant program, contact Pam LeRose at the Council office by phone at (304) 346-8500 or via e-mail at wvhuman@wvhc.com or see the Council's web site at www.wvhc.com. The West Virginia Humanities Council is a private, not-for-profit organization providing grants and direct programs in the humanities throughout West Virginia.

Jack Gantos Day at the Bridgeport Public Library

Jack Gantos, author of the *Rotten Ralph* series and one of five Finalists for the 1998 National Book Award in Young People's Literature for his book, *Joey Pigza Swallowed the Key*, brought the house down at the Bridgeport Public Library on January 26. Bridgeport Mayor Leonard J. Timms, Jr. presented Mr. Gantos with a Proclamation, honoring the day as "Jack Gantos Day." A standing-room only crowd of children and adults enjoyed the antics and tales of Mr. Gantos as he discussed his writing life and read from his work, which also includes: *Rotten Ralph*, *Not So Rotten Ralph*, *Rotten Ralph's Rotten Romance*, *Heads or Tails*, *Jack's New Power*, and *Jack's Black Book*.

Mr. Gantos's visit was sponsored by The National Book Foundations's "Pleasures of Reading" program in conjunction with National Book Month. Through the "Pleasures of Reading" program, sponsored by Waldenbooks, the National Book Foundation brings eminent National Book Award authors to underserved communities across the country. Sharon Saye, Director of the Bridgeport Public Library said she believed this was the first time a National Book Award Finalist had been to West Virginia.



Bridgeport Public Library Director Sharon Saye introduces Jack Gantos to an overflow crowd



Jack Gantos accepts a Proclamation honoring "Jack Gantos Day" in Bridgeport

New Cross Lanes Library Opens January 19

From "At The Library" Winter 1999 Edition
a publication of the Kanawha County Public Library System

The new Cross Lanes Branch Library opened on January 19. Recent work on the building, which included installing a fire sprinkler system and correcting other construction problems, is complete. Installation of shelving, computers and furniture has been taking place over the past few weeks, along with moving materials from the old library.

The new 6300 square foot facility has many additional features such as a larger collection of materials, increased seating, quiet work area, space for computers and a meeting room with appropriate space for programs.

Major difficulties with the library's general contractor, Dursco Contractors, Inc., delayed the opening of the facility since late spring. In May the library board requested that Dursco make a number of corrections to the building, and then in late July terminated the contract with Dursco because work had not been completed. This matter continues to be arbitrated under the auspices of the American Arbitration Association.

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR SOUGHT

The Library of Wheeling Jesuit University is seeking an Assistant Director of the Library for Information Services. This position reports to the Director of the Library and is in charge of all information service activities. The professional librarians at WJU are classified as Academic Professionals, with a ten-month faculty contract. Responsibilities will include the following: Instruct patrons in the use of all library resources, print, online and electronic databases; develop library instruction materials; serve as the liaison with the technical support staff and the library's automation vendor, train the library staff and the student library assistants in the use of the electronic databases; serve as the library Webmaster and Internet expert; is in charge of the library in the absence of the director; and participate in the overall fiscal and administrative management of the library. Wheeling Jesuit University is a small, private, liberal arts university. The candidate must be able to contribute to the mission of a Jesuit, Catholic institution that fosters the values of lifelong learning, service to others, and intelligent, moral leadership. Minority group members are encouraged to apply. Qualifications include a M.L.S. from an ALA accredited program; five years of recent full-time professional experience with automated library systems; experience with electronic information technology, database searching and all other reference activities in an academic environment; and excellent analytical, organizational and communication skills. Successful candidate must possess the ability to establish and maintain good working relationships with library staff as well as faculty, students and other library users. Please send letter of application, resume and names of references by March 31, 1999 to Director of Human Resources, Wheeling Jesuit University, 316 Washington Avenue, Wheeling, WV 26003. No phone calls please. AA/EOE

February 2, 1999...A Busy Day Was Had By All Legislative Day

Librarians gathered at the Cultural Center the morning of Tuesday, February 2. WVLA hosted an informational meeting and distributed packets for librarians, trustees and friends of libraries to present to their legislators. The information packet contained a library statistical report, a copy of the Library Commission's budget request and annual report, as well as a letter to the House or Senate finance chair. Librarians also had the opportunity to talk with WVLA Library Advocate Bob Ashley, a former Delegate from Roane County who served in the House for fourteen years. Bob, who was also the House Minority Leader, has always been a firm supporter of libraries and it is a pleasure to work with him.



Librarians gather in the Cultural Center prior to visiting with legislators.



WVLA Legislative Advocate, Bob Ashley, talks with Pearl Jett, President of the Doddridge County Library



Betty Gunnoe passes out information packets to librarians on their way to meet with their Senators and Delegates.

Library Appreciation Day Reception

The evening brought the first WVLA Library Appreciation Reception. This was a new venture for us, we are still evaluating the event and it will be discussed more at Spring Fling. In the meantime, if you have other ideas or suggestions for future programs please let us know. The reception was well attended by legislators and the speaking remarks were encouraging.



Dave Childers of the WVLC talks with Jeanie Taylor, Center Point librarian, while



David Price addresses librarians and legislators.



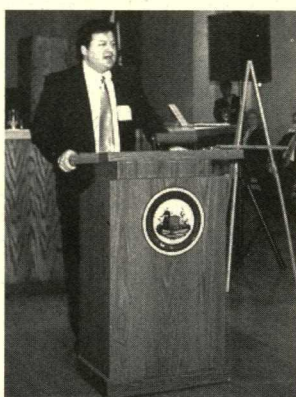
Karen Goff and J.D. Waggoner ham it up for the camera during the



WVLA President Betty Gunnoe welcomes everyone to the first WVLA Reception.



Marion Brooks, Mullins Area Library and First Lady Hovah Underwood.



Speaker of the House, Bob Kiss talks to Reception attendees.



Glada Stump, Calhoun County Librarian and Judy Gunsaulis, Director of Fayette County Public Library watch as First Lady Hovah

Geary Library/Medical Facility is Unique

Three years ago the Roane County Library Board and staff embarked on a collaborative project with Roane County Family Health Care, the Roane County Board of Education and the Roane County Commission to bring two much-needed services to the people of southern Roane County.

Originally, Suzette Lowe, Director of the Roane County Library, was approached by citizens of the community of Geary with a request for library service for that area of the county, a forty minute drive from Spencer, the seat of the main library. Suzette approached the West Virginia Library Commission and applied for a grant from LSTA funds. The Commissioners granted \$60,000 for the project with the condition that equal matching funds were found.



John Kathmann, Roane County Library Trustee, Brenda Chadwell, Head Teacher at Geary School, and Glen McEndree, Administrator of Roane County Family Health Care break ground for the Geary Library/Medical Facility in Southern Roane County.



The Geary Branch of the Roane County Library is scheduled to open by July 1, 1999.

The Board of Education agreed to donate property on the grounds of the Geary School and the Mid-Ohio Valley Regional Council applied for grant funds from the Small Cities Block Grant Program through the Governor's Office. Because the project combined a medical facility and a public library within one building with a shared meeting room that will also be made available for community use. The library will occupy more than fifty percent of the 3200 square foot facility.

Denise Ash, Assistant Director of the Alpha Regional Library System said there is a target opening date of July 1, 1999.

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AALL SCHOLARSHIP INFORMATION 1998-99

The American Association of Law Libraries is committed to providing opportunities for professional growth. Each year, the Association awards scholarships in significant amounts in the categories listed below. Minorities are particularly encouraged to apply.

The following five types of scholarships are available from the American Association of Law Libraries to assist law librarians in meeting educational expenses:

*Type I

Library Degree for Law School Graduates

Awarded to a law school graduate working towards a degree in an accredited library school. Preference is given to AALL members, but

scholarships are not restricted to members. Preference in selection is given to persons with meaningful law library experience.

Evidence

of financial need must be submitted.

*Type II

Library School Graduates Attending Law School

Awarded to a library school graduate working toward a degree in an accredited law school, who has meaningful law library experience and

has no more than 36 semester (54 quarter) credit hours remaining before qualifying for the law degree. Preference given to members of

AALL, but scholarships are not restricted to members. Evidence of financial need must be submitted.

*Type III

Library Degree for Non-Law School Graduates

Awarded to a college graduate with meaningful law library experience

who is a degree candidate in an accredited library school. Preference is given to members of AALL, but scholarships are not restricted to members. Preference is given to applicants working for degrees with emphasis on courses in law librarianship. Evidence of financial need must be submitted.

*Type IV

Library School Graduates Seeking A Non-Law Degree

Awarded to library school graduates who are degree candidates in an area, other than law, which will be beneficial to the development of a professional career in law librarianship. Scholarship restricted to members of AALL. Evidence of financial need must be submitted.

*Type V

Law Librarians in Continuing Education Courses

Awarded to law librarians with a degree from an accredited library or law school who are registrants in continuing education courses related

to law librarianship.

The following named scholarships are available by the American Association of Law Libraries:

The John Johnson LEXIS-NEXIS Memorial Scholarship fund is allocated at

the discretion of the Scholarship Committee. Mr. Johnson was Director of the Legal Librarian segment of Library and Information Services at Mead Data Central and a long-time law library supporter.

The George A. Strait Minority Stipend

\$3500 awarded to college graduates with law library experience who are

members of a minority group as defined by current U.S. government guidelines and are degree candidates in accredited library or law schools. Preference will be given to individuals with previous service to, or interest in, law librarianship. Applicants must show evidence of financial need.

The James F. Connolly Congressional Information Service Scholarship

Up to \$3,000 will be awarded to a law librarian who is interested in pursuing a law degree and preference will be given to a librarian who has demonstrated an interest in government publications. Mr. Connolly

was a CIS executive who maintained close ties to law librarians.

Applications must be received by April 1 and awards are made shortly thereafter. Forms are available from:

- 1) AALL Web site at <http://www.aallnet.org/services/scholarships.html>
- 2) AALL via Fax-on-Demand at 908/544-5901
- 3) AALL via email at scholarships@aall.org
- 4) AALL via phone at 312/939-4770 ext. 24
- 5) AALL headquarters via mail - send a request indicating the type of scholarship application needed with a self-addressed envelope to:

American Association of Law Libraries

53 West Jackson Blvd. Suite 940

Chicago, IL 60604

STATE BUG

Lola R. Miller, West Huntington Public Library

With the last of the state libraries reporting, the state insect, as voted by our summer readers is the **lady Bug**. The Praying Mantis was a very close second, but Clarksburg and Barboursville put the lady bug over the top.



Delegate Evan Jenkins is hard at work as we speak with the bill committee, making sure everything is in order for a bill to be presented for the legislative body for approval and vote. He has been very enthusiastic and supportive of our venture.

Thanks so much for all your participation. It was a worthwhile summer program. Now lets get to work on Rock n' Read!



ARTHUR™ Series to Focus on Library Outreach

The Association for Library Services to Children (ALSC), a division of the American Library Association will work with WGBH of Boston to bring the Emmy Award-winning public television series ARTHUR, based on the best-selling books by Marc Brown, to focus outreach efforts on libraries.

Among the goals of this collaboration are to use the ARTHUR books and television series to bring new audiences to the library and to introduce them to a wide-range of books and authors.

Ten libraries will be selected to receive stipends to implement innovative and replicable outreach plans targeted to a specific new audience in their communities. The plan must include an outreach partnership with at least one other community organization and relationships with local PMS stations are encouraged.

Applications are due March 31, 1999. Requests for applications can be e-mailed to Eileen Hughes at eileen.hughes@wgbh.org or on the ARTHUR Web site at <http://www.pbs.org/arthur>.

All public libraries will automatically receive a free ARTHUR resource kit in the fall with programming ideas and resources, including ideas for events, recommended reading lists, and reproducible tips for parents on reading with kids and using the library.

Directions 2000 Study Presented

The draft of the Directions 2000 Study was presented to members of the West Virginia Library Commission and the public on March 1, 1999. Bill Wilson, of the library consulting firm Himmel & Wilson who conducted the study, gave the presentation and then answered questions from Commissioners and the public during a public hearing. A second public hearing will be held on April 12 in Clarksburg.

The consultants were consistently impressed by how much was done with so little. One section of the report reads, "Overall, the operating budgets of West Virginia's libraries are dismal. Salary schedules for library workers are among the poorest in the nation. Nevertheless, the consultants were largely met with energetic, enthusiastic, and dedicated workers struggling to offer their communities the best service possible with the resources that are provided."

West Virginia's Internet access picture is a real bright spot in a survey of librarians done as a part of the Directions 2000 Study. Over ninety percent (91.9%) of libraries responding to the survey said that their libraries had some level of Internet access for the public. All nine libraries that reported no Internet connection were branch locations. Furthermore, a similar number of directors and/or branch managers reported that they personally use the Internet.

The draft is available in its entirety as a link from the Library Commission's Home page at www.wvlc.wvnet.edu.

Cheryl Ware continued from page 1

The second hour of Cheryl Ware's program was a writer's workshop, and she transformed a group of children's librarians into a roomful of writers. She began by listing some basic categories of a character, and we brainstormed and submitted ideas to flesh them out. Our nameless, faceless entity became Shaina Madison, a 12-year-old who lives with her mom and dad in White Sulphur Springs. Her younger brother, Sam, annoys her by following her everywhere and endlessly playing video games. Audrey, her older sister, gets mad when Shaina wears her clothes and makeup. We learned about her fears and flaws, her strengths and hobbies, her favorite foods, color, and possessions. When we finished brainstorming, we each took one week in her life and wrote journal entries as Shaina. We shared our stories, and were amazed at how creative we had become by what we knew about our character. The workshop concluded with the author signing her books.

Cheryl Harshman continued from page 1

The new book Cheryl and Marc are working on is a poem written for young children about colors and vegetables. Each succeeding verse includes an item mentioned in the previous one and builds upon it. One of the New York Times top ten illustrators, Wade Zahares (*Window Music*), has been chosen to create the pictures. The work, due to be published in the year 2000, has been tentatively titled *Harvest Garden*, although the publishers have discussed adding the word "Rainbow" to the title. Cheryl generously took the time to autograph copies of *Sally Arnold* after her presentation.

Both Cheryls added depth to their presentations by sharing their childhood memories and stories from their own lives, which influenced their writing. Although they might seem to be ordinary people to their friends and families, they have discovered ways to make their experiences come alive, thus becoming immortalized in the books and the characters they have created. They left us with a special gift, the reminder that we, too, are unique, and we have stories to share with others. Perhaps one of us will be inspired to become the newest West Virginia children's author.

WVLA

Calendar

MARCH

Women's History Month

11-12

Spring Fling at Flatwoods
<http://wvnmvs.wvnet.edu/~wvla/>

WVLA Executive Board meeting - Blackwater Falls Lodge

25-27 Public Library Association Spring Symposium

APRIL

National Poetry Month

11-17

National Library Week: Beyond Words:
Celebrating America's Libraries.

12

West Virginia Legislature ends

MAY

3-4

ALA Legislative Day - Washington, DC

10

Last day for reservations for Exec. Bd. at Pipestem -
Last day for Exec. Bd. to receive nominations
(20 weeks before conference)

OCTOBER

4-6

WVLA Annual Conference - Shepherdstown
WVLA Executive Board Meeting - North Bend

NOTE: West Virginia Library Commission meetings are
set monthly and dates will vary. Please check the WVLC
web site for the exact date, time, agenda and minutes each
month at: <http://www.wvlc.wvnet.edu>

Next Issue:

SPRING FLING HIGHLIGHTS



WVLA Membership Information

To become a member of the West
Virginia Library Association, contact:

Dottie Thomas
Ohio County Public Library
52 16th St.
Wheeling, WV 26003-3696
Phone 232-2044

WV Libraries

A Note from the Editors

WV Libraries welcomes suggestions
for articles from librarians, support staff,
trustees, and friends.

Articles may be submitted in writing,
typewritten, by e-mail, or on computer
disk. If submitting material on computer
disk, please use 3 1/2" disk and save your
file to disk as an ASCII file and submit
a hard copy (printout) of the material on
the disk.

Article Submission Schedule:

January 15 for February issue
March 15 for April issue
May 15 for June issue
July 15 for August issue
September 15 for October issue
November 15 for December issue



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